



# THERM-EX GROUT™



Certified to  
NSF/ANSI 60

THERM-EX GROUT™ is an engineered system for use as backfill material in earth-coupled heat pump systems. Its elevated thermal conductivity and low permeability allow for excellent heat exchange while protecting groundwater supplies. THERM-EX GROUT™ should be pumped using a positive displacement pump capable of generating pressures in excess of 300 psi. Developed using high swelling Wyoming Bentonite, this new generation of grouting material offers efficient installation of closed-loop geothermal heat pump systems.

## MATERIAL SPECIFICATIONS:

Thermal Conductivity:	.93 Btu/hr-ft-°F	1.05 Btu/hr-ft-°F
Permeability:	$2 \times 10^{-8}$	$6 \times 10^{-8}$
Solid Content:	64 %	67 %
Slurry Weight:	13.6 lbs/gal	14.4 lbs/gal
Slurry Volume/Batch:	29 gals	36 gals

## APPROXIMATE VOLUMES FOR GROUT

Drilled Hole Dia.	Loop Inside Dia.	Anlr. Vol. (cu.ft./ft.)	Anlr. Vol. (gal. ft.)
4	¾	0.08	0.57
4.5	¾	0.10	0.74
5	¾	0.13	0.94
5.5	¾	0.15	1.15
6	¾	0.19	1.39
5	1	0.12	0.88
5.5	1	0.15	1.10
6	1	0.18	1.33

## APPLICATION RATE:

The combination of fresh water, THERM-EX GROUT™ and silica sand constitute “the system” for backfilling geothermal loops. Use locally available dry silica sand. For best results, use sand ranging in size from 30 mesh to 70 mesh (AFS GFN particle size classification 38 to 50).

Mix as follows:

	<b>.93 Btu/hr-ft-°F</b>	<b>1.05 Btu/hr-ft-°F</b>
Water	17 gal	20 gal
THERM-EX GROUT™	1 – 50 lb bag	1 – 50 lb bag
Silica Sand	200 lb	300 lb

Add the THERM-EX GROUT™ to the water while agitating. Mix for approximately one minute, then add the sand. Agitate until the sand is uniformly dispersed and pump into place using a tremie line. For best results, place the tremie line near the bottom of the loop and pump into place. Providing local regulations allow, slowly extracting the tremie line as you come up the hole reduces pump pressure, aids the grout in setting quicker, and reduces the opportunity for formation damage.

To increase work time for deep sets, you may add THINZ-IT® to the make-up water. Addition rates may vary, but generally 2 ounces to make-up water yields the desired results.

**THERM-EX GROUT™ is packaged in 50 pound bags.**

**WYO-BEN, INC.**

**P.O. Box 1979**

**Billings, Montana 59103**

**Internet: [www.wyoben.com](http://www.wyoben.com)**

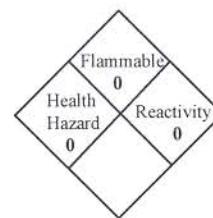
**email: [email@wyoben.com](mailto:email@wyoben.com)**

**800-548-7055 or (406) 652-6351**



# WYO-BEN, INC.

## MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET



NFPA FIRE HAZARD  
IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

### I. PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION

Trade Name(s): <b>THERM-EX GROUT</b>	
Generic Name(s): Wyoming (Western) Bentonite; Bentonite Clay (CAS No. 1302-78-9)	
Chemical Name(s): Sodium Montmorillonite (CAS No. 1318-93-0)	
Manufacturer: <b>WYO-BEN, INC.</b> Address: P.O. Box 1979 Billings, Montana 59103	Telephone Numbers: Information: (406) 652-6351 EMERGENCY: (406) 652-6351

### II. HAZARDOUS INGREDIENTS

Ingredient	CAS NO.	%	Hazard
Crystalline Silica (SiO <sub>2</sub> ) as Quartz	14808-60-7	See Note	Low concentrations of crystalline silica (SiO <sub>2</sub> ) in the form of quartz may be present in airborne bentonite dust. See Section VI for discussion of health hazard.

Note: Although the typical quartz content of western bentonite is in the range of 2 to 6% most of the quartz particles are larger than the 10  $\mu$  respirable threshold size. The actual respirable quartz concentration in airborne bentonite dust will depend upon bentonite source, fineness of product, moisture content of product, local humidity and wind condition at point of use and other use specific factors.

### III. PHYSICAL DATA

Boiling Point (°F): NA	Specific Gravity (H <sub>2</sub> O=1): 2.45-2.55
Vapor Pressure (mm. Hg): NA	Melting Point: Approx. 1450°C
Vapor Density (Air = 1): NA	Evaporation Rate (Butyl Acetate = 1): NA
Solubility in Water: Insoluble, forms colloidal suspension.	pH: 8-10 (5% aqueous suspension)
Density (at 20° C): 55 lbs./cu.ft. as product.	
Appearance and Odor: Bluegray to green as moist solid, light tan to gray as dry powder. No odor.	

### IV. FIRE AND EXPLOSION DATA

Flash Point: NA	Flammable Limits: LEL: NA UEL: NA
Special Fire Fighting Procedures: NA	
Unusual Fire and Explosion Hazards: None. Product will not support combustion.	
Extinguishing Media: None for product. Any media can be used for the packaging. Product becomes slippery when wet.	

### V. REACTIVITY

Stability: Stable
Hazardous Polymerization: None
Incompatibility: None
Hazardous Decomposition Products: None
NA = Not Applicable ND = Not Determined



## VI. HEALTH HAZARD INFORMATION

### Routes of Exposure and Effects:

Skin: Possible drying resulting in dermatitis.

Eyes: Mechanical irritant.

Inhalation: *Acute* (short term) exposure to dust levels exceeding the PEL may cause irritation of respiratory tract resulting in a dry cough. *Chronic* (long term) exposure to airborne bentonite dust containing respirable size ( $\leq 10 \mu$ ) quartz particles, where respirable quartz particle levels are higher than TLV's, may lead to development of silicosis or other respiratory problems. Persistent dry cough and labored breathing upon exertion may be symptomatic.

Ingestion: No adverse effects.

### Permissible Exposure Limits: (for air contaminants)

OSHA PEL  
(8hr. TWA)

ACGIH TLV

Bentonite as "Particulates not otherwise regulated"  
(formerly nuisance dust)

Total dust

15mg/m<sup>3</sup>

ND

Respirable dust

5mg/m<sup>3</sup>

ND

Crystalline Quartz (respirable)

0.1mg/m<sup>3</sup>

0.1mg/m<sup>3</sup>

Carcinogenicity: Bentonite is not listed by ACGIH, IARC, NTP or OSHA. IARC, 1997, concludes that there is sufficient evidence in humans for the carcinogenicity of inhaled crystalline silica from occupational sources (IARC Class 1), that carcinogenicity was not detected in all industrial circumstances studied and that carcinogenicity may depend on characteristics of the crystalline silica or on external factors affecting its biological activity. NTP classifies respirable crystalline silica as "known to be a human carcinogen" (NTP 9<sup>th</sup> Report on Carcinogens – 2000). ACGIH classifies crystalline silica, quartz, as a suspected human carcinogen (A2).

Acute Oral LD<sub>50</sub>: ND

Acute Dermal LD<sub>50</sub>: ND

Aquatic Toxicology LC<sub>50</sub>: ND

### Emergency and First Aid Procedures:

Skin: Wash with soap and water until clean.

Eyes: Flush with water until irritation ceases.

Inhalation: Move to area free from dust. If symptoms of irritation persist contact physician. Inhalation may aggravate existing respiratory illness.

## VII. HANDLING AND USE PRECAUTIONS

Steps to be Taken if Material is Released or Spilled: Avoid breathing dust; wear respirator approved for silica bearing dust. Vacuum up to avoid generating airborne dust. Avoid using water. Product slippery when wetted.

Waste Disposal Methods: Product should be disposed of in accordance with applicable local, state and federal regulations.

Handling and Storage Precautions: Use NIOSH/MSHA respirators approved for silica bearing dust when free silica containing airborne bentonite dust levels exceed PEL/TLV's. Clean up spills promptly to avoid making dust. Storage area floors may become slippery if wetted.

## VIII. INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE CONTROL MEASURES

Ventilation Requirements: Mechanical, general room ventilation. Use local ventilation to maintain PEL's/TLV's.

Respirator: Use respirators approved by NIOSH/MSHA for silica bearing dust.

Eye Protection: Generally not necessary. Personal preference.

Gloves: Generally not necessary. Personal preference.

Other Protective Clothing or Equipment: None

## IX. SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS

Avoid prolonged inhalation of airborne dust.

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION HAZARDOUS MATERIAL INFORMATION

Shipping Name: NA (Not Regulated)

Hazard Class: NA

Hazardous Substance: NA

Caution Labeling: NA

Date Prepared: January 2, 2007

Doc #: 4368-00

All information presented herein is believed to be accurate; however, it is the user's responsibility to determine in advance of need that the information is current and suitable for their circumstances. No warranty or guarantee, expressed or implied is made by WYO-BEN, INC. as to this information, or as to the safety, toxicity or effect of the use of this product.



## Permeability of Therm-X Grout and Sand Mixture (Constant Head)

Date: June 27, 2001

Project: 01-1416

Client: Mr. Richard K. Brown  
Wyo-Ben, Inc.  
P. O. Box 1979  
Billings, Montana 59103

Copy:


Membrane	Membrane	#1
	Membrane Thickness	2.29 cm
	Membrane Area	47.8 cm
	Moist Weight	210.3 grams
Mixture	Grout	105 grams
	Deionized Water	350 ml
	Sand	630 grams

**Procedure** The Therm-X grout and deionized water were mixed together with a high speed mixer. The sand was then added and mixed with a high speed mixer. Approximately 210 grams of the resulting mixture was poured into four solid wall permeability cells. The four perms were enclosed in a plastic bag and allowed to cure. After approximately 16.5 hours, the plastic bags were removed and measurements were taken to determine the membrane thicknesses. Filter papers were added and the molds were filled to approximately 1" from the top with fine-grained sand. The molds were then filled to the top with deionized water and the tops were placed on the perm cells. The perms were then performed with a constant head pressure of 4.0 psi.

### Test

Run	Time (t), sec	Outflow, ml	Head (h), cm	Permeability (K) cm/sec
1	29520	4.10	286.8	2.3E-08
2	58740	7.45	286.7	2.1E-08
3	28380	3.40	286.6	2.0E-08
4	55680	6.65	286.5	2.0E-08
Average Permeability				2.1E-08

### Remarks

  
T. Matt Koster, PE  
Materials Engineer





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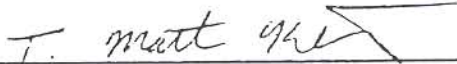
Membrane	Membrane	#2
	Membrane Thickness	2.29 cm
	Membrane Area	47.4 cm
	Moist Weight	218.8 grams
Mixture	Grout	105 grams
	Deionized Water	350 ml
	Sand	630 grams

**Procedure** The Therm-X grout and deionized water were mixed together with a high speed mixer. The sand was then added and mixed with a high speed mixer. Approximately 210 grams of the resulting mixture was poured into four solid wall permeability cells. The four perms were enclosed in a plastic bag and allowed to cure. After approximately 16.5 hours, the plastic bags were removed and measurements were taken to determine the membrane thicknesses. Filter papers were added and the molds were filled to approximately 1" from the top with fine-grained sand. The molds were then filled to the top with deionized water and the tops were placed on the perm cells. The perms were then performed with a constant head pressure of 4.0 psi.

### Test

Run	Time (t), sec	Outflow, ml	Head (h), cm	Permeability (K) cm/sec
1	29820	4.00	286.8	2.3E-08
2	58320	7.20	286.7	2.1E-08
3	28380	3.35	286.6	2.0E-08
4	55560	6.32	286.5	1.9E-08
Average Permeability				2.1E-08

### Remarks

  
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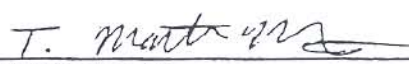
Membrane	Membrane	#3
	Membrane Thickness	2.34 cm
	Membrane Area	48.7 cm
	Moist Weight	214.3 grams
Mixture	Grout	105 grams
	Deionized Water	350 ml
	Sand	630 grams

**Procedure** The Therm-X grout and deionized water were mixed together with a high speed mixer. The sand was then added and mixed with a high speed mixer. Approximately 210 grams of the resulting mixture was poured into four solid wall permeability cells. The four perms were enclosed in a plastic bag and allowed to cure. After approximately 16.5 hours, the plastic bags were removed and measurements were taken to determine the membrane thicknesses. Filter papers were added and the molds were filled to approximately 1" from the top with fine-grained sand. The molds were then filled to the top with deionized water and the tops were placed on the perm cells. The perms were then performed with a constant head pressure of 4.0 psi.

### Test

Run	Time (t), sec	Outflow, ml	Head (h), cm	Permeability (K) cm/sec
1	29520	5.20	286.5	3.0E-08
2	58440	9.80	286.4	2.8E-08
3	28380	4.25	286.2	2.5E-08
4	55560	8.10	286.1	2.4E-08
Average Permcability				2.7E-08

### Remarks

  
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Materials Engineer



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Membrane	Membrane	#4
	Membrane Thickness	2.29 cm
	Membrane Area	47.1 cm
	Moist Weight	210.3 grams
Mixture	Grout	105 grams
	Deionized Water	350 ml
	Sand	630 grams

**Procedure** The Therm-X grout and deionized water were mixed together with a high speed mixer. The sand was then added and mixed with a high speed mixer. Approximately 210 grams of the resulting mixture was poured into four solid wall permeability cells. The four perms were enclosed in a plastic bag and allowed to cure. After approximately 16.5 hours, the plastic bags were removed and measurements were taken to determine the membrane thicknesses. Filter papers were added and the molds were filled to approximately 1" from the top with fine-grained sand. The molds were then filled to the top with deionized water and the tops were placed on the perm cells. The perms were then performed with a constant head pressure of 4.0 psi.

### Test

Run	Time (t), sec	Outflow, ml	Head (h), cm	Permeability (K) cm/sec
1	29460	4.25	287.6	2.4E-08
2	58800	7.80	287.5	2.2E-08
3	28440	3.65	287.3	2.2E-08
4	55680	6.90	287.2	2.1E-08
Average Permeability				2.2E-08

### Remarks

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